

IRTS Radio News Bulletin Sunday July 13th 2008

Radio Clubs - Please Update Your Information

The Autumn is typically the time of year when many of us consider joining a class or becoming involved in a new hobby. Anyone looking at amateur radio will no doubt click on the "Radio Clubs" link on the IRTS web site, where details of more than 30 clubs affiliated to the society are available. It is important that these details are up to date, so club secretaries and other officers are asked to review the information shown on the IRTS web site for their own club.

Updates or additions should be sent to the webmaster as soon as possible, as it is planned to highlight the link to the "Radio Clubs" page during the month of August. Contact the Webmaster at "pagemaster at irts dot ie".

ComReg Spectrum Strategy

On the 1st of July ComReg Published its Spectrum Management Strategy Statement for 2008 to 2010. It is available as document No 08/50 on the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie In March last a draft of this strategy was published and public responses were sought. The IRTS submitted a detailed response at the time. As a result of this, the final version just published now includes mention of the self-training and technical investigations aspects of experimental and amateur radio. We also succeeded in having included in the Strategy the upgrading of the amateur allocation at 7100 to 7200 kHz from secondary to primary status from March 2009 as agreed at WRC'03 as well as the general release of the 70 MHz band and access to channels in the region of 5 MHz. These latter two issues were agreed between ComReg and the Society quite some time ago and have been held up pending the settling of some administrative details by ComReg. We hope these facilities will be made available in the near future.

European Common Allocations Table

In February last as a result of an initiative by IRTS, ComReg raised at the CEPT Working Group on Frequency Management WGFM, the question of the inclusion of a mention of allocations to the amateur service in the region of 70 MHz in the European Common Allocations table ECA. There had been no mention of these despite the fact that an increasing number of countries were giving operating facilities to the amateur

service in that part of the spectrum.

This initiative has now yielded results as the revised ECA published by the European Radiocommunications Office ERO which is open for consultation until the 16th of August includes a new footnote EU9 which reads as follows "In a growing number of CEPT countries, parts of the band 70.0 to 70.5 MHz is also allocated to the Amateur service on a secondary basis". The IRTS has sent a detailed submission to the ERO urging that this footnote be retained. This footnote will assist Societies in CEPT countries, which are reluctant to grant allocations at 70 MHz because there is no mention of it either in the ITU Radio Regulations or the European Common Allocations Table.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group

On Monday the 21st of July, Roger G4ROJ will give a Kite aerial demonstration and presentation at Carriganore Campus in Waterford. The meeting will take place at 8.00 p.m. Please note the change from the usual venue. A map will be posted on www.searg.com in the coming days. Weather permitting, Roger will give an outdoor demo of Kite antennas in use and there will also be a presentation indoors.

All are welcome to attend.

Cork Radio Club Rally

Due to the closure of the Blarney Park Hotel the club has had to move the Rally to a new location. The Hotel that CRC has selected offers the same facilities as Blarney giving even more space to accommodate more traders and amateurs.

Cork Radio Club are very much looking forward to hosting the rally this year at Montenotte Hotel, Cork on Sunday the 14th of September and hope you will share the same commitment as before in the last 16 years.

Further details will be posted with regards to the location "how to get there" etc. A short video of the venue can be viewed on "you tube" URL www.youtube.com/ei5crc

The Cork Radio Club meets every Monday night at 8.30 pm at 1a Assumption Road Cork. Further details from the club Secretary, Frank Mason EI6EVB at QTHR.

Postage Costs

On subscription renewal notices posted since May, members have been given the choice of receiving the Echo Ireland newsletter electronically as an alternative to ordinary mail. The take-up from this offer has been excellent, and we are now opening this offer to members generally.

Those who opt to receive the newsletter electronically instead of in paper form will be issued with a username and password, which gives them access to a download site containing PDFs of all the newsletters from 2006 onwards, and which will be updated as each new issue is published. If you would like to receive Echo Ireland by way of electronic download, and so help to reduce the Society's postage bill, please let the Membership Records Officer know. Include your call sign and email address in the request, and send it to "memrecords at irts dot ie".

Items for inclusion in next weeks Radio News should be forwarded to Mark Wall, EI7IS at QTHR or by phone to 087-6302026 or 051-340850. Items for the radio news can also be faxed to 087 5 6302026. News should be submitted via e-mail to "news at irts dot ie" for automatic forwarding to both the radio and printed news services. Please note that items for the radio news should reach the editor no later than midday on Friday in order to be guaranteed inclusion in the following Sunday's bulletin.

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